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DISPATCH		CLASSIFICATION S E C R E T	PROCESSING ACTION
TO	Chief, Western Hemisphere Division		MARKED FOR INDEXING
INFO	Attention: [REDACTED]		NO INDEXING REQUIRED ONLY QUALIFIED DESK CAN JUDGE INDEXING
FROM	Chief of Station, Santiago [REDACTED]		MICROFILM
SUBJECT	Popular Unity		
ACTION REQUIRED - REFERENCES [REDACTED]			

The attached editorial struck Station as a particularly penetrating analysis of the alignment of political forces which are liable to have decisive influence on the outcome of the presidential elections of 1970. It should be read in conjunction with the [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Attachment:

- 1 - Editorial H/W
- 2 - Thinkpiece H/W

Distribution:

- 3 - C/WHD w/atts 1 & 2 H/W

Declassified and
Approved for Release
July 2000

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CROSS REFERENCE TO	DISPATCH SYMBOL AND NUMBER [REDACTED]	DATE 7 August 1969
	CLASSIFICATION S E C R E T	HQS FILE NUMBER [REDACTED]

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ATTACHMENT: (No. 2)

We have said that "the name of our game is democracy," that "Chile is already an established constitutional democracy" and that "the test for Chilean democracy has a specific date --September 6, 1970." We have also pointed out that, historically, there has been a struggle between the executive and legislative branches of the government. The present moment is no exception, and the present government is faced with herculean task of obtaining approval of meaningful legislation from a Congress in which it has a plurality but not a majority, and has cavalierly rejected alliances with other political parties except in the most "en extremis" of conditions. The problem of what to do with the Chilean congress transcends the immediate problems of the present government, and will have to be reckoned with by any president that assumes power in 1970; be it a Christian Democrat~~ic~~, Alessandri or a Marxist. Alessandri has made it abundantly clear that he regards both political parties and the Congress as anachronism's which no longer serve the country's interests. The Marxists, while perhaps maintaining the trappings of a democratic congress would likely soon make the necessary changes to ensure it is the rubber-stamp of the executive, or would dispense with it entirely. A Christian Democratic could be expected to maintain the congress, at least at the outset, but an impulsive president such as Tomic might soon be tempted to seek some drastic solution to the problem, with a result differing little from the solutions of Alessandri or a Marxist.

In sum, Chile may face a constitutional crisis of major proportions either before or after the 1970 election over executive frustration with the legislative. Nor is the populace at large isolated from the problem. Most Chileans feel their country is excessively politicized and that Congress is impeding progress. There seems to be no political party at the present time that reflects the aspirations of most Chileans for "normalcy", or which defends the interests of the important middle class. The National Party is regarded as reactionary, the Radical Party as corrupt and useless, the Socialist Party as revolutionary and unsettling and the Communist Party for what it is. Even the Christian Democratic Party which seemed to hold promise in 1964, is badly tarnished and resented from all sides of the political spectrum. Roughly a year before the election the electorate is adrift with neither home port nor destination, and quite prepared to dispense with Congress if that is the price to be paid for getting the country back to what Chileans, at least, regard as normal. Therefore, we must anticipate a variety of actions by

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the executive designed to control or dispense with the Congress. Accordingly, we must be prepared to live with a definition of democracy in which the Congress plays a much more minor, if any, role in governing Chile.

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